

on top of the wave today may with a slight shift of fortune be dropped off that wave and fall below the surface, then they will be looking for others to help them. We should vote on these bills and implement policies which we would vote for and implement if they were to apply to us, to our family members, and those who are dear to us. It is regrettable that many times people will not do the right thing, will not do the compassionate thing, will not do the fair thing unless they are dealing with a matter that pertains to themselves personally. This is what I am sure others of you who get calls for help in your office will experience. An individual will call and say I never believed this could happen until it happened to me or to a friend, so those who today don't have a problem do not consider that it will ever be this way, and that you and those near to you will never have a problem, but even if they don't, it should not be necessary for us to watch our fellow creatures, at least in this country, be reduced to such a level of degradation that they cannot help themselves, then we cynically, as has been done throughout this discussion, although I don't think the ones who did it intend it to be cynical, will try to equate an impoverished woman with a woman who has a job good enough to be granted maternity leave. The two are not the same, and between things disparate in nature, there can be no comparison. To say it more simply, you cannot compare apples and oranges. They are essentially different, so when you take people who are impoverished, and you have to pretend that somehow they are to be equated with women who have very good jobs, something in your mind is telling you that the position you are advocating is not valid, it will not stand up under analysis. So you have to tell yourself these women should be treated as if they have a job paying a living wage; they have to be treated as if they are economically independent; they have to be treated as if they receive respect and consideration from this society; they have to be viewed as if they have self-respect, as if they believe that the world in which they live can be better than what it is. But when we have to use that as if argument,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...it is because we don't want to face the reality of what actually is. As long as I am in this Legislature, I am going to look at things the way they actually are. I will gear my votes to that and I will do all that I can, say all that I can, to try to alleviate the harsh reality that people are confronted with in this society which boasts so much